



In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified

application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all of the pending claims, whether amended or not, are set forth below.

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 11-13 have been amended to read as follows. A marked-up version of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source composed of plural electron emission devices connected in a matrix by plural row wirings and plural column wirings, the method comprising a deposition step of applying a voltage through said row wirings to plural pre-elements provided with a structure of electron emitting portions of the electron emission devices, thereby depositing on said pre-elements a deposit, the deposition step including a step of dividing said plural pre-elements into plural groups connected respectively to different row wirings, dividing each group into plural sub groups connected respectively to different row wirings, and, taking at least one pre-element in each sub group as a unit, applying a voltage per each unit in succession to the pre-elements in one sub group, wherein the sub group includes the plural pre-elements connected to the plurality of row wirings, the step of applying the voltage per each unit in succession is executed in a manner such that, after the voltage is applied to a predetermined unit of pre-

elements, the voltage is then applied to the pre-elements connected to certain row wirings sandwiching, between the certain row wirings and the row wirings connected to the predetermined unit, at least one other row wiring connected to at least one other pre-element of another sub-group.

2. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 1, wherein an atmosphere gas in said deposition step contains an organic substance and said deposit contains at least carbon.

3. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 1, wherein units of a same sub group consist of pre-elements connected to a same row wiring.

4. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 3, wherein the wirings of units contained in the mutually different groups are positioned in a dispersed manner with a predetermined pitch.

5. (Not Amended Herein) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 4, wherein said groups are positioned in succession with mutually continuous areas.

6. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 5, wherein, in said groups, the wirings of at least one unit of each sub group are positioned with a pitch corresponding to a number of wirings of the unit contained in the sub group.

7. (Amended) A method for producing an electron source according to claim 5, wherein, in said groups, the wirings of an x-th unit in each sub group are positioned in succession for all sub groups for each group.

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8. (Not Amended Herein) A method for producing an electron source according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the plural pre-elements are classified into plural areas and said areas correspond to said groups.

9. (Not Amended Herein) An electron source comprising plural electron emission devices connected in a matrix by plural row wirings and by plural column wirings, and provided with deposits in electron emitting portions of said electron emission devices, said electron source being produced by the method according to claim 1.

10. (Not Amended Herein) An electron source according to claim 9, wherein said electron emission device includes a pair of element electrodes, a conductive film connected to said element electrodes, and an electron emitting portion formed in a part of said conductive film.

11. (Amended) An electron source according to claim 9, wherein said electron emission device is a surface conduction electron emission device.

12. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising an electron source according to any of claims 9 to 11, and an image forming member for forming an image by irradiation with the electron beam from said electron source.

13. (Amended) A method for producing an image forming apparatus which comprises producing an electron source by the method according to claim 1 and combining thereto an image forming member for forming an image by irradiation with the electron beam from said electron source.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action (Paper No. 7) dated September 13, 2002. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-13 remain pending in this application, of which Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 11-13 have been amended to even further clarify the claimed subject matter.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application EP 0 726 591 A1 (Suzuki et al.) in view of European Patent Application EP 0 954 005 A2 (Fujii et al.).